



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/628,146	07/28/2000	Nicolas Javier Di Prinzio	102	3537

7590 01/29/2002

ROBERT E. BUSHNELL & LAW FIRM
1522 K STREET N.W.,
Suite 300
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-1202

EXAMINER

HENDERSON, MARK T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3722

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/628,146

Applicant(s)
Nicolas Javier Di Prinzio

Examiner
Mark T. Henderson

Art Unit
3722



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 7, 2002

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☒ Claim(s) 20 is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 17, 18, 21, and 22 is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 and 19 is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on Jan 7, 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

20) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 3722

DETAILED ACTION

Faxing of Responses to Office Actions

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, TC 3700 is encouraging FAXING of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at (703)305-3579. This practice may be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into TC 3700 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on January 7, 2002 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/628,146 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Art Unit: 3722

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claim 21 recites the limitations: "said terminal ends" in line 6; "said interior surface" in line 11; and "said distal ends" in line 12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3722

4. Claims 1-12, 17, 18 and 22, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin (2,448,611).

Martin discloses in Fig. 3, 4 and 7, a magnetic clip marker comprising: a pair of rectangular wall members (6A and 6B, starting at point 12 and ending at fold line 22 as see in Fig. 7) joined together (with strip 18), wherein the wall members include a base portion (6A) and a clip portion (6B) completely overlying the base portion (6A) to define a throat (seen in Fig. 7 which occupies triangle (12A-24-12B) and arranged to receive a page of a book; magnetic members (10) aligned with respect to one another and mounted to the base portion and the clip portion; a cover member (12A and 12B) or wedge members covering the magnetic members (10) on the overlapping base and clip portions to permit and guide the page of the book to be received within the throat of the clip marker; external surfaces of the page marker provides an application for graphic prints or embossments (as seen in Fig. 1 and in Col. 1, lines 40-41); a signaling tab member (as seen in Fig. 1 and 7, in which the tab member starts at fold line (22) and ends at fold line (16)) which extends outwardly from the joined pair of wall members; and wherein the cover member (12A and 12B) covers both the magnetic members and the surfaces of the overlapping base and clip portions. However, Martin does not disclose: a clip portion overlapping a base portion; a cover member being a film made of plastic or cellulosic material; the wall members are circular; and wherein the base portion or clip portion has a greater length than the other.

In regards to **Claim 1**, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to make the different portions of the clip portion of whatever form or shape was desired or expedient to

Art Unit: 3722

overlap the base portion. **A change in form or shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art, absent any showing of unexpected results.** *In re Dailey et al.*, 149 USPQ 47.

In regards to **Claims 7 and 8**, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the cover members of any desirable material, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

In regards to **Claim 10**, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to make the different portions of the wall members of whatever form or shape was desired or expedient. A change in form or shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art, absent any showing of unexpected results. *In re Dailey et al.*, 149 USPQ 47.

In regards to **Claim 12 and 22**, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to construct the wall members, the base or clip portion in any desirable size, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

5. Claims 13 and 14, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin in view Johnson.

Art Unit: 3722

Martin discloses a clip marker having all the elements as set forth in Claim 1 and as set forth above. However, Martin does not disclose at least one of the base or clip portion including an opening of ornamental design form.

Johnson discloses in Fig. 1 and 3, a clip marker having an opening (12) of an ornamental form to provide a line identification.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Martin's clip marker to include an opening as taught by Johnson for the purpose of defining an index member associated with the opening.

In regards to **Claim 13**, a recitation of the intended use ("to provide a line identification on the page") of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

6. Claim 15, as best understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin in view of Schwartz.

Martin discloses a clip marker having all the elements as set forth in Claim 1 and as set forth above. However, Martin does not disclose an external surface of the clip marker having an exterior surface oriented to bear a device providing a visual display for information

Art Unit: 3722

Schwartz discloses a clip marker (Fig. 22 and Col. 8, lines 60-68) oriented to bear a device providing a visual display of information (see Col. 4, lines 1-10).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Martin's clip marker to include a wall member surface oriented to bear a device providing a visual display of information as taught by Schwartz for the purpose of providing a supplement to be used to coincide with information in the book.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 16 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

9. Claim 20 is allowed.

Art Unit: 3722

10. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: No prior art of record discloses a magnetic clip marker comprising: magnetic members, a pair of wall members exhibiting a normally closed orientation with opposite surfaces of the wall members providing a continuous interior surface extending between a throat and terminal ends of the wall members; a cover member disposed along the interior surface to form a continuous layer extending from a first terminal end and around the throat and to a second terminal end; and including all of the other limitations of the independent claim.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed on April 11, 2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., structure that may be manufactured with a normally closed orientation of the opposite legs) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

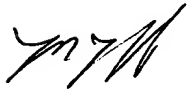
Art Unit: 3722

In response to applicant's argument that the Martin reference does not disclose a base portion and a clip portion overlapping each other and defining a throat between and structurally arranged to receive a page of a book, the examiner submits that the Martin reference discloses a base portion, an overlying clip portion and a throat in between wherein the clip marker is arranged to receive a page. Although the clip portion does not overlap the base portion (in which the size of the clip portion is greater, but not equal to the base portion), it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to make the different portions of the clip portion of whatever form, shape and size was desired or expedient to overlap the base portion. **A change in form or shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art, absent any showing of unexpected results.**

Art Unit: 3722


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark T. Henderson whose telephone number is (703)305-0189. The examiner can be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:30 AM to 3:45 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner supervisor, A. L. Wellington, can be reached on (703) 308-2159. The fax number for TC 3700 is (703)305-3579. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 3700 receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148.



MTH

January 25, 2002



A. L. WELLINGTON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)
6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.